

## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NATO, AORG

SUBJECT: REPLY TO ASYG WALSH'S LETTER RE INFRASTRUCTURE  
CONTROLLER

REF: STATE 043359

PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER TO ASYG WALSH. ORIGINAL  
SIGNED COPY BEING MAILED TODAY.

QUOTE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520

MARCH 3, 1978

MR. JOHN B. WALSH  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL  
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FOR DEFENCE SUPPORT  
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

DEAR MR. WALSH:

FOR ME PERSONALLY IT WAS A GREAT PLEASURE TO MEET WITH  
YOU IN BRUSSELS LAST FALL. OUR CONVERSATION HELPED ME

TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING MORE OF THE PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES WE SHARE, AND I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR KIND MESSAGE AND YOUR GOOD WISHES.

BECAUSE YOUR LETTER OF JANUARY 13 REACHED ME ONLY LATE LAST WEEK, I BELIEVE EVENTS MAY PARTIALLY AT LEAST HAVE OVERTAKEN THE QUESTIONS YOU RAISED. ON FEBRUARY 16, AS I UNDERSTAND, AMBASSADOR BENNETT FORMALLY NOMINATED CHARLES WILDS AS THE UNITED STATES CANDIDATE FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE CONTROLLER POSITION.

AS I AM SURE YOU KNOW, I GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR INTEREST THAT THE INFRASTRUCTURE POSITION BE FILLED BY ANOTHER AMERICAN ON MR. SMITH'S DEPARTURE. FURTHER, I SHARE YOUR CONCERN THAT THE UNITED STATES CANDIDATE FOR THIS DEMANDING JOB BE THE BEST OFFICER TO BE FOUND, AND I AM CERTAIN THAT IN CHARLES WILDS WE HAVE IDENTIFIED THE RIGHT PERSON. HE IS EXCEPTIONALLY WELL QUALIFIED FOR THESE RESPONSIBILITIES, PROFESSIONALLY AND PERSONALLY, AND IS FULLY CAPABLE OF CHAIRING THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE DURING THE CRITICAL PERIOD OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR A PROGRAM FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT MR. WILDS WOULD FULLY JUSTIFY OUR CONFIDENCE AND THAT HE WOULD PROVE A WORTHLY SUCCESSOR TO THE VERY ABLE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE HELD THIS POSITION IN THE PAST. I SHOULD

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ADD THAT MY CONVICTIONS ARE PREFACED BY THE FACT THAT MR. WILDS AND I WORKED TOGETHER IN KATHMANDU SOME YEARS AGO WHEN I WAS THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION AND HE WAS THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER.

LET ME EMPHASIZE THAT BOTH OUR MISSION TO NATO AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED A PRIORI WITH KEEPING THE INFRASTRUCTURE CONTROLLER POSITION IN UNITED STATES HANDS. IN OUR JUDGMENT, MR. WILDS' NOMINATION WITH AN AUGUST REPORTING DATE APPEARS TO OFFER THE MOST FAVORABLE CHANGES FOR THIS OUTCOME.

WITH BEST PERSONAL REGARDS,

SINCERELY YOURS,

(SIGNED) HARRY BARNES JR.

HARRY G. BARNES, JR. VANCE

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